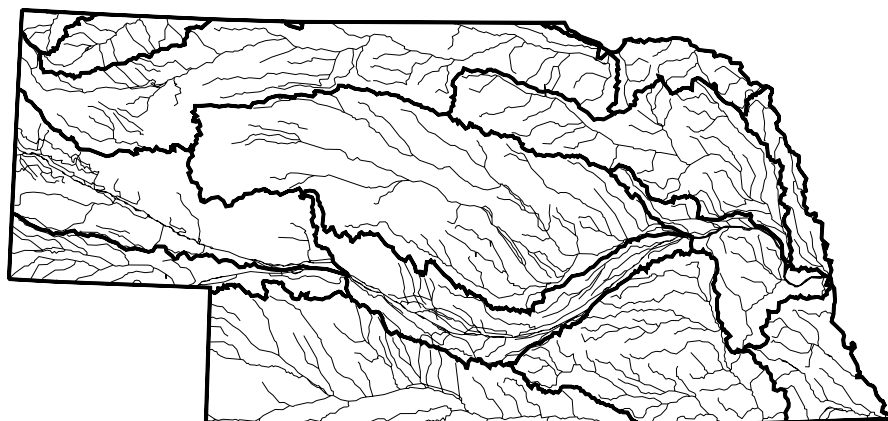


Nebraska



— Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

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Surface Water Quality

Agriculture is the most widespread source of water quality problems in Nebraska, but urban runoff is also a concern. Agricultural runoff introduces excess sedimentation, bacteria, suspended solids, pesticides, and nutrients into surface waters. Municipal and industrial facilities may contribute ammonia, bacteria, and metals. Channelization and hydrologic modifications have

impacted aquatic life in Nebraska streams by reducing the diversity and availability of habitat. Monitoring has revealed that current water quality criteria for the herbicide atrazine is being exceeded

Nutrient enrichment and sedimentation were the most common water quality problems identified in lakes, followed by siltation, suspended solids, and nutrients. Sources of pollution in lakes include agriculture, construction, and urban runoff. Nebraska also has 36 fish consumption advisories in effect. The contaminants of concern include methylmercury, dieldrin, and PCBs.

Ground Water Quality

Although natural ground water quality in Nebraska is good, hundreds of individual cases of ground water contamination have been documented. Major sources of ground water contamination include agricultural activities, industrial facilities, leaking underground storage tanks, oil or hazardous substance spills, solid waste landfills, wastewater lagoons, brine disposal pits, and septic systems.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Nebraska's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program concentrates on protecting ground and surface water resources by performing watershed assessments and

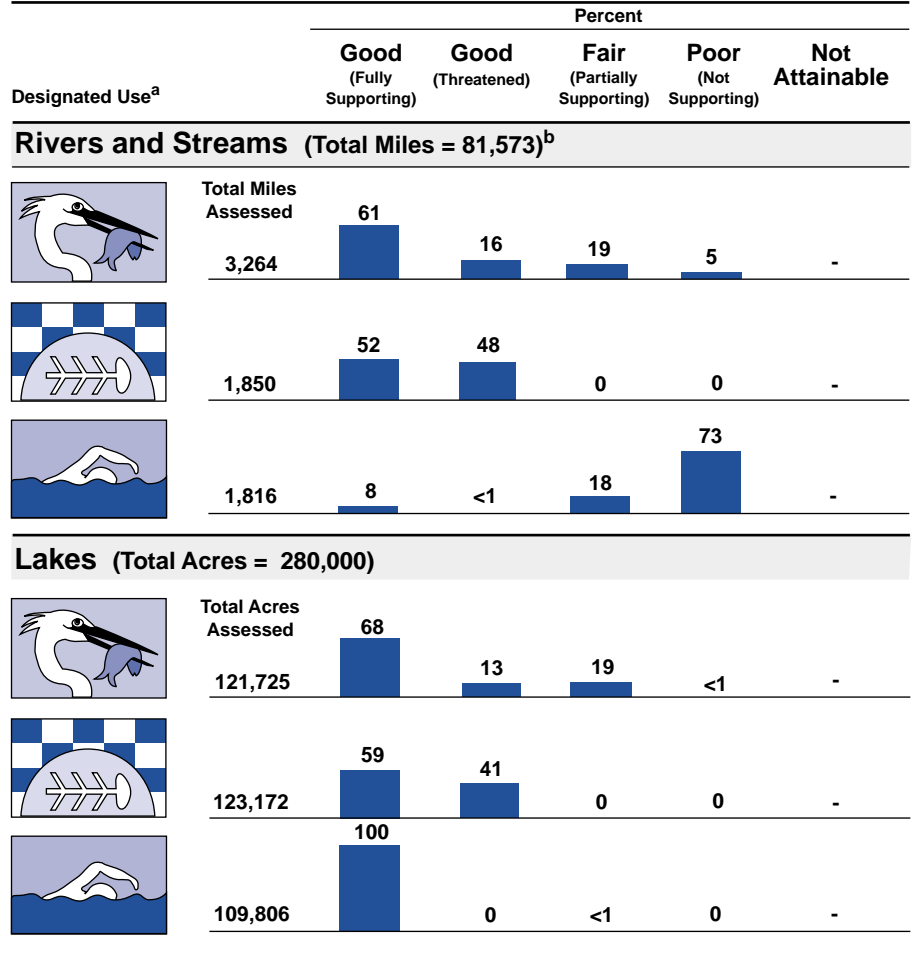
promoting implementation projects. Currently, Nebraska has 34 Section 319 funded NPS-related projects.

Nebraska revised wetland water quality standards to protect beneficial uses of aquatic life, aesthetics, wildlife, and agricultural water supply. The state also protects wetlands with the water quality certification program and water quality monitoring.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

The state's Nonpoint Source Management Program cannot be effective without monitoring information to identify and prioritize waters impacted by NPS, develop NPS control plans, and evaluate the effectiveness of implemented best management practices. In response to this need, Nebraska developed an NPS surface water quality monitoring strategy to guide NPS monitoring projects. During 1996 and 1997, the state conducted three watershed assessments, diagnostic/feasibility studies for three lakes, and ongoing BMP effectiveness studies in 10 watersheds.

Individual Use Support in Nebraska



- Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

^a A subset of Nebraska's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

^b Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.